

AN ORDINANCE BY:

00- 0 -1494

THE FINANCE/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE IV OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA PERTAINING TO THE LICENSING OF PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGERS IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA BY ADDING NEW DEFINITIONS TO SECTION 30-486 AND BY AMENDING SECTION 30-502(5) FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS; AND BY ADDING SECTION 30-506 FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING AVAILABLE SHORT TERM EXEMPTIONS FROM THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LICENSE TO PRACTICE ASTROLOGY IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, for the protection of its citizens the Code of the City of Atlanta provides for the licensing of persons who practice astrology in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has established a Board of Astrology Examiners to assist the Bureau of Personnel Operations in the testing of persons who apply for licenses to practice astrology in the City of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Astrology Examiners has made certain recommendations for improvements in the testing and licensing process so that the requirements for a license to practice astrology in the City of Atlanta are consistent with the most stringent standards of that profession;

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, HEREBY ORDAINS:

**Section 1:** that Section 30-486 of the Code of Ordinances is amended by the inclusion of the following new definitions which are to be placed in said section as new subparagraphs to be codified in appropriate alphabetical sequence:

*Astrologer's examination* means a written examination prepared by the board of astrology examiners and administered by the board or the bureau of personnel operations and graded by the board. The examination may consist of one or more parts and must include a part which tests the mathematical skills considered necessary by the board of astrology examiners and such parts considered necessary by the board of astrology examiners to test the ability of the applicant to interpret the significance of natal alignment, progressions of the constellations and planets, and transits.

*Sponsoring institution* means a school or association which can certify that an applicant seeking exemption from all or part of the astrologer's examination has pursued a course of study which was designed to impart the skill and learning expected from a professional astrologer.

**Section 2:** that Chapter 30, Article IV Division 2, Section 30-502, Subsection(5) of the Code of Ordinances is amended by striking the present subsection (5) in its entirety and replacing it with the following language which is to be codified as Section 30-502(5)

- (5) Have passed the written astrologer's examination prepared by the board of astrology examiners and administered by the board or by the bureau of personnel operation; or have taken the Level Three Examination of the National Council for Geocosmic Research and can demonstrate that the exam was passed; or shall have obtained certification in the field of astrology under one of the courses of study listed below:

The American Federation of Astrologers, Washington, D.C.

The Classical Curriculum, Natal Astrology Certification, administered by J. Lee Lehman, PhD

Robert Zoller's Medieval Astrology Correspondence Course, Natal Certification

Federation of Australian Astrologers

The Faculty of Astrological Studies, United Kingdom

Kepler College, Seattle. WA.

(i) Any person who applies for an astrologer's license under any of the above listed courses of study must be able to produce a certificate, issued by the sponsoring institution, which attests to the completion of regular course work and examinations, not including any exemptions granted for any reason. All applicants seeking to be licensed under any of the above listed courses of study must include a copy of the curriculum which was actually followed. Any applicant whose course of study does not include a math equivalent shall be required to sit for the math portion of the astrologer's examination. Any applicant whose curriculum does not include sufficient course work in those areas of astrological interpretation included in the astrologer's examination shall be required to sit for that portion of the examination which tests that particular area of interpretation.

(ii) Any person seeking an exemption from any part of the astrologer's examination and who has not obtained certification in the field of astrology under one of the courses of study listed above but who believes that their training or course of study is sufficiently equivalent may apply to the board for a determination as to whether their training or course of study is sufficiently equivalent to the courses of study listed above such that an exemption would be warranted. Any applicant seeking an exemption from the board must include documentary evidence from a sponsoring institution or such other information as would be sufficient for the board to make a reasoned determination concerning their training or course of study and to which if any portions of the examination should be waived.

(iii) All requests for exemption from any part of the astrologer's examination shall be in writing and shall be included with the license application. The applicant shall be notified in writing which if any portions of the examination have been exempted prior to the examination.

**Section 3:** that Chapter 30, Article IV Division 2 of the Code of Ordinances is amended by the inclusion of the following new section which is to be codified as Section 30-506.

Sec. 30-506. Temporary license exemptions available

(a) Any person may apply for a short term exemption from the requirements for a license to practice astrology in the City of Atlanta. This exemption shall only apply to the requirement for passage of the written examination prepared by the board of astrology examiners and shall be given only to those persons who otherwise meet the qualifications set forth in this article. Such exemption shall be for a period not to exceed seven consecutive days or if more than one exemption is requested, not more than fifteen days in any one calendar year. The availability of a temporary exemption of the licensing requirements specific to professional astrologers shall not relieve any person of their obligations to obtain a business license or to pay business taxes as set forth elsewhere in this Code.

(b) The applicant for exemption must apply to the department of finance in writing received at least thirty days prior to the date of the desired exemption. A fee of \$10.00 shall be paid to the board of astrology examiners for the cost for processing the exemption request and shall be included with the application. The board of astrology examiners shall consider the application within ten days of receipt by the department of finance and shall notify an applicant of their written decision which shall be mailed not later than ten days prior to the date of the requested exemption. The failure of the board to meet the deadline for consideration of an application or mailing of a written decision shall not constitute an automatic grant of an exemption and no applicant should consider that the exemption is granted unless written notification of an exemption is received from the board of astrology examiners.

(c) The application for exemption shall specify the name and mailing address of the applicant, the date(s) of the requested exemption, and shall include a copy of the certification from one of the courses of study listed in this article and such additional material as required to show compliance with the other requirements of this article. Any applicant who believes that their training, course of study, or experience is sufficiently equivalent to the courses of study listed in this article may apply to the board for an exemption based on said training, course of study, or experience, but the applicant must include documentary evidence sufficient for the board to make a reasoned determination. Any subsequent exemption request in the same calendar year as any other exemption request is granted shall only be required to include the name and mailing address of the applicant, the date(s) of the requested exemption and the processing fee.

(d) Any person who is denied an application for exemption either by action of the board

or by failure of the board to respond to a request for exemption shall have the right to a hearing before the board of astrology examiners.

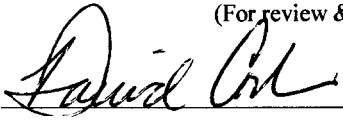
**Section 4:** that all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the terms of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

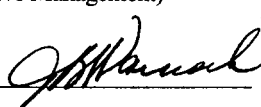
TRANSMITTAL FORM FOR LEGISLATION

To Mayor's Office:

Dominic Ochei, Deputy CFO

(For review & distribution to Executive Management)

Commissioner's Signature: 

Director's Signature 

From: Originating Dept: Finance/Director's Office Contact (name): Bill Warnock/Betty Ludd 330-6298

Committee(s) of Purview: Finance/Executive Committee Committee Deadline: 8/21/00

Committee Meeting Date (s): 8/30/00 City Council Meeting Date: 9/5/00

**CAPTION:**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE IV OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA PERTAINING TO THE LICENSING OF PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGERS IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA BY ADDING NEW DEFINITIONS TO SECTION 30-486 AND BY AMENDING SECTION 30-502(5) FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS; AND BY ADDING SECTION 30-506 FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING AVAILABLE SHORT TERM EXEMPTIONS FROM THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LICENSE TO PRACTICE ASTROLOGY IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE/DISCUSSION:**

The Board of Astrology Examiners has made certain recommendations for improvements in the testing and licensing process so that the requirements for a license to practice astrology in the City of Atlanta are consistent with most stringent standards of that profession. This is being done by amending Chapter 30, Article IV of the Code of Ordinances to add a new definition to Section 30-486 and amending Section 30-502(5) to strengthen the licensing requirements and adding a Section 30-506 for making available short term exemptions from the requirements for a license to practice Astrology in the City of Atlanta.


FINANCIAL IMPACT (if any):

OTHER DEPARTMENT(S) IMPACTED: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinated Review With: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor's Staff Only \_\_\_\_\_

Received by Mayor's Office: 9/15/00  
(date)

Reviewed:  9/15/00  
(initials) (date)

Submitted to Council: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Action by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Adversed \_\_\_\_\_ Held \_\_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_\_  
Substitute \_\_\_\_\_ Referred \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_